MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

31 AUGUST 1982

Lebanon

Military Situation -- Israeli planes downed a Syrian MiG-25 which was on a reconnaissance mission over Lebanon, Jerusalem radio reported. Voice of Lebanon radio revealed that the Syrian plane, intercepted by an Israeli fighter, fell east of Beirut and that the pilot parachuted to safety. Sources cited by the radio claimed that Israeli gunboats also fired two missiles at the plane.

Syrian forces, also according to the Voice of Lebanon, have deployed 400 tanks in northern Lebanon and 600 tanks in the Al-Biqa' Valley.

Evacuation Process -- Another convoy of Syrian soldiers and equipment left on the overland route from Beirut early on 31 August, Voice of Lebanon radio reported; military sources cited by the radio said over 1,000 Syrians are among the convoy. The radio also revealed that vehicles in the 30 August convoy had not been inspected. According to Damascus radio, Syrian forces which departed that day took up designated positions in the Al-Biqa'. In another development, sources cited by the Voice of Lebanon asserted that PLO fighters who left Beirut for Tartus port in Syria have reentered northern Lebanon with heavy weapons.

Meanwhile, an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman said Israel insists that members of the Lebanese leftist independent Nasirite Movement, Al-Murabitun, must also leave Beirut, Jerusalem radio reported.

'Arafat Departure Update -- After farewell ceremonies at Beirut port, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left on a Greek ship for Athens, Voice of Lebanon radio averred. A Greek Government spokesman cited by Athens radio confirmed 'Arafat's impending visit but denied any planned meeting with the French president who will also be visiting Greece.

In a message to Saudi King Fahd cited by Monte Carlo radio, 'Arafat thanked the Saudis for offering to treat PLO wounded and said that over 50,000 Lebanese and Palestinians were killed or wounded in the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Political Situation -- In a meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah affirmed that Lebanese nationalist forces oppose any government which cooperates with Israel and praised Syria for defending Lebanon against the Israeli invasion, Damascus television reported. Al-Asad reassured Franjiyah that Syria will continue to support Lebanese nationalists. Earlier, Franjiyah stressed in a television interview that the Israelis will not set foot in northern Lebanon or most of the Al-Biqa' Valley and that the popular resistance forces will "teach them a lesson" in ground fighting.

Israel

On his return from a visit to the United States, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon told Jerusalem radio that relations between Israel and the United States are expected to become even closer. He said there was "growing understanding" in the United States for the objective of removing foreign forces from Lebanon and expressed satisfaction with the pace of the expulsion of "terrorists" from Beirut. Sharon asserted that with the PLO out of Beirut, contacts will improve with the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza.

Regarding the upcoming visit of the U.S. secretary of defense, Jerusalem radio revealed that the subjects of nondelivery of F-16 fighters and the strategic cooperation agreement will not be discussed.

Arab Ministers Conference

The Arab foreign ministers conference in Morocco ended with a decision to hold the 12th Arab summit conference in Fes on 6 September, Tunis radio reported. It was agreed, the radio said, that the summit's agenda will include the Tunisian plan on Israel and the Palestinians, the U.S. "alliance" with Israel, Arab relations and the Iran-Iraq war. Voice of Lebanon radio revealed that the Lebanese working paper submitted at the conference caused an uproar with representatives of Syria and the PLO. The text of the Lebanese paper, carried by Beirut radio, called for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, suspension of PLO activities in the country and the termination of the Arab Deterrent Forces' mission in Lebanon. The paper also condemned Israel for its invasion and appealed for Arab support.

Iran-Iraq War

Speaking after an awards ceremony, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn affirmed that Iran is preparing a new large offensive in the Basra sector, INA reported. Iranian Ground Forces Commander Col 'Ali Sayyad Shirazi told IRNA after a meeting with the prime minister that preparations are being made for the "final victory" against Iraq.

Iraq

The Iraqi ambassador in New Delhi announced that Iraq has dropped its proposal to host the preparatory meeting for the nonaligned summit, Delhi radio reported.

Iran

IRNA claimed that efforts by the Khuzestan Prosecutor's Office resulted in the arrest of 183 members of the "Iranian Communist Union."

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KARACHI PAPER: KARMAL MAY BE REPLACED 'SOON'

GF301810 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 29 Aug 82 p 1

[Text] London, 28 Aug (AAP) -- Rumors are rife in political circles in Qandahar, the second-largest town in Afghanistan, that Babrak Karmal may soon be replaced by Zahir Ofaq, a lesser-known but staunch communist leader in Afghanistan. According to these circles, the news of Karmal's ouster may be true, in view of the fact that the photographs of Babrak Karmal have been recently removed from all government offices and important buildings throughout Afghanistan.

KARMAL ON SECURITY SITUATION, REFUGEES

BK290939 Hong Kong AFP in English 0919 GMT 29 Aug 82

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 29 (AFP) -- Afghan President Babrak Karmal has accused the United States of seeking to tie down an estimated 100,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan, the Indian news agency PTI reported today.

In an interview with the agency Mr Karmal said: "It is the international reaction, especially the United States, which is provoking crisis in this region and not letting the Soviet troops return to their country."

Mr Karmal added that all problems with his eastern neighbour Pakistan could be resolved through negotiations.

"What is required is a commonsense approach on the part of Pakistani rulers and a readiness for direct talks (with Afghanistan)," he said.

Mr Karmal said it was the U.S. administration's "design" to undermine the Soviet Union by preventing peace initiatives and by creating problems for Moscow.

PTI reported that he said the recent talks with Pakistan conducted under the auspices of the United Nations in Geneva were "very useful" and he had struck an optimistic note on the exercise.

Talking about the Afghan refugee problem, Mr Karmal accused Pakistan, which now housed over 2.7 million refugees, of preventing them from returning home. He estimated there were about 600-700,000 refugees.

Official statistics, however, compiled by world relief agencies and supported by diplomats, say there are about 4 million Afghan refugees abroad. In other words, one in every five Afghans today is a refugee.

Mr Karmal also accused Iran of preventing the homecoming of Afghans.

The PTI interviewer said his meeting with the Afghan president took place in the "heavily guarded" presidential palace in Kabul.

Mr Karmal claimed the security situation and political stability of his Soviet-backed government was increasing "day by day, week by week and month by month." He said the situation in his embattled country would return to complete normality within a couple of months if "interference from outside ceased."

He accused the "bandits" -- the official name for Moslem insurgents fighting his government -- of being responsible for his country's ills. He acknowledged that a visitor to Kabul could hear "firing here and there," and he blamed it on the "bandit gangs." "The counterrevolutionary forces cannot resist the government and the armed forces openly, that is why they come in small terrorist groups," he said, apparently conceding that Moslem insurgents were active.

Comments on India

BK291252 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Aug 82

[Text] President of Afghanistan Babrak Karmal has highly appreciated the stand taken by Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi on the Afghan issue during her visit to the United States. In an interview to PTI he said: I am personally satisfied with the policy of the Indian Government. Describing India as a good friend, Karmal said India's policy promotes peace and detente all over the world.

KESHTMAND ADDRESSES MARCH IN FEYZABAD

LD302114 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Aug 82

[Excerpts] Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; and Mahmud Barialay, candidate Politburo member and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, yesterday morning took part in a large gathering which was held by thousands of toilers of Feyzabad city and its suburbs after a march to welcome the resolutions of the Ninth PDPA Central Committee Plenum in the unity hall of Feyzabad city. We draw your attention to a speech by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, who conveyed greetings from Babrak Karmal to the toiling people of Badakhshan Province:

[Begin recording] Dear compatriots, sisters, dear brothers, elders and our dear children who are present here: First, we convey to you warm greetings and best wishes personally from Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, and also from the party Politburo and Central Committee and the Council of Ministers.

We know how you suffered in the past and how you lived under class, social and political pressures and other oppressions by previous despotic regimes and governments. Only the victory of the April Revolution brought with it real opportunities for liberating the great masses of the people from oppression, tyranny and pressure. The party, after the success of the April Revolution, began implementing its truly popular and revolutionary policy which our dear and toiling patriots knew about years before the victory of the revolution. But, as you are witnesses to events, a temporary pause occurred on the path of the realization of the party's aspirations and goals. Fortunately, as a result of the resolute decision by the party and Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, revolutionary legality was once again revived in the country and the aims and aspirations of the April Revolution, as announced at the beginning, began to be implemented.

Although during the period of 2 or 2 and 1/2 years which have elapsed since the new development stage of the April Revolution we have not been able to accomplish great practical measures as your revolutionary party and government desires, of course you know yourselves that in order to implement and realize these great goals more time is needed, and necessary conditions must be provided for the realization of these aspirations. But preliminary measures for the realization of these aspirations and the goals of the party have been provided. During the past 2 years necessary measures have been taken concerning the realization and understanding of the policy of the PDPA which is in conformity with the true interests of the masses of the people. Means and organizations which are necessary for realizing these goals have been created.

Dear compatriots, you know that after the victory of the April Revolution in the country, and in particular after the victory of the new development stage of the revolution the sworn enemies of the people of Afghanistan -- enemies of our revolution, counterrevolution under the instruction and leadership of imperialism, particularly criminal U.S. imperialism, in collusion and collaboration with the Chinese hegemonists and the reaction of the region and the world -- set out on an undeclared war against the DRA and made use of every means to create obstacles on the path of the realization of the lofty aspirations of the April Revolution, to inflict (?suffering) on the people and to foil the revolution.

You are well aware of the crimes, murders, setting fires to crops, brutalities and unlimited and boundless crimes which have been committed by the counterrevolutionaries. I am well aware that most families and people who are now present at this meeting have experienced these pressures, tyrannies, injustice and crimes.

But the party and government are determined, with the help and cooperation of the masses of the people, to put an end to these crimes forever. And we really will put an end to this! Our revolution is victorious; it is irreversible; no power in the world can prevent people from progressing toward a bright and glorious future and toward creating a new society and a new life and the future prosperity of the people. We are striving ahead, and will certainly succeed.

The people of Afghanistan realize every day how tricky, oppressive and brutal the enemies are; how much they are against our actions and against the true interests of the people; and, therefore, increasingly rise in fight against the counterrevolutic.. and express their readiness for a joint and decisive struggle to eliminate plundering, thieving and robberies and the crimes of the counterrevolutionaries.

On the international level we also enjoy the great backing of all forces of progress and peace of the world. We in our just struggle for creating a new society free from the exploitation of man by man and for creating an honorable life for our people enjoy the support of our great friend the USSR.

We will soon provide such possibilities that direct trade relations between our Badakhshan Province and the Tadzhikistan SSR can be established, and all the needs and primary goods of you noble people will be maintained speedily from near (?roads). Preliminary steps for all these means have been taken and will soon be put into practice. We are aware of your various problems from the transportation and communication points of view among various districts and subdistricts. We also know that in Badakhshan Province, which is a mountainous province, road systems are full of problems, and means of security also have to be considered. We shall find ways to maintain links between various regions of Badakhshan Province by air. [end recording]

KARACHI: MUJAHIDIN KILL 100 KARMAL TROOPS

BK301152 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 30 Aug 82

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that the Afghan freedom fighters killed 100 Karmal troops and injured another 50 in different operations in Qandahar and Oruzgan Provinces of Afghanistan. They conducted two operations at (Sarbuza) and Panjwai near the Qandahar city and destroyed a tank and two trucks. The mujahidin also launched an attack on the 12th of this month at (Shore Andran) area in Qandahar, destroying one tank.

Reports from Oruzgan Province also say that the Afghan mujahidin launched a big attack in (Tehsil Derguch), which continued for 2 days. A hand-to-hand battle was also fought and the Afghan mujahidin inflicted heavy casualties on the Karmal troops.

Reports say that a major offensive was launched by the Karmal regime troops on mujahidin stronghold near Qalat-e Ghelza'i, the capital of Zabol Province, but the mujahidin fought back valiantly.

EX-DEPUTY PREMIER BARI CONVICTED OF CORRUPTION

BK261621 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Aug 82

[Text] The special martial law tribunal No 1 has convicted the former deputy prime minister, S.A. Bari, and sentenced him to (?3) years rigorous imprisonment and a fine of 400,000 taka, if he fails to pay the fine, to suffer rigorous imprisonment for another 2 years. The tribunal found him guilty of corruption and abuse of official position.

In an anonymous judgment, the tribunal found two of the coaccuseds, Riazul Haq Chowdhury and Mujibul Islam, alias [word indistinct], guilty of the charges and also convicted them. The remaining some other coaccuseds have been acquitted.

402 POLICEMEN DISMISSED FOR CORRUPTION

BK290715 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 29 Aug 82

[Text] Four hundred and two police personnel, including nine officers, have been removed from service for corruption, misconduct and abuse of power for immoral purposes under the Martial Law Order No 9. This was officially announced in Dacca yesterday. The nine police officers include one deputy inspector general, one area inspector general, one superintendent of police [SP], one additional SP, two [word indistinct] and two assistant superintendents of police. Of the rest, 392 subordinate police personnel who have been removed from service include 6 inspectors, 106 subinspectors, 2 sergeants, 90 assistant subinspectors, 25 head constables, 30 assistant constables and [number indistinct] constables.

FINANCE MINISTER LEAVES FOR COMMONWEALTH MEETING

BK271722 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 27 Aug 82

[Text] Minister for Finance and Planning A.M. Muhith left Dacca tonight for London to attend the Commonwealth finance ministers conference beginning on Monday. Muhith is leading a four-member Bangladesh delegation to the conference. After attending the meeting Muhith will go to Toronto in Canada to participate in the annual general meeting of the World Bank.

BRIEFS

IMF LOAN -- The International Monetary Fund [IMF] is to give $78.3 million as loan to Bangladesh to cover shortfall in exports and rising grain cost. The IMF said Bangladesh's exports are running by 5 percent below the last year's level, mostly in raw jute and jute goods. It said the cost of Bangladesh's imports of grain and cereal products this year has gone up by 39.5 percent over the two preceding years. [Text] [Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Aug 82 BK]

USSR TO BUY RAW JUTE -- The Soviet Union will buy about 39,000 bales of raw jute worth 60 million taka from Bangladesh. A protocol to this effect was signed in Dacca on 17 August. [Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 18 Aug 82 BK]

PRC TO BUY RAW JUTE -- China will buy about 248,400 bales of raw jute worth about 308.6 million taka from Bangladesh. A contract to this effect was signed in Dacca yesterday between the Bangladesh jute export corporation and the Chinese trading corporation. [Text] [Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 19 Aug 82 BK]

ATMOSPHERE AMONG SIKHS IN PUNJAB 'VERY TENSE'

BK281127 Hong Kong AFP in English 0942 GMT 28 Aug 82

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Aug 28 (AFP) -- The arrest of over 300 turbaned Sikhs in Punjab could spark off yet another round of street demonstrations and bloody clashes by the militant Sikhs demanding more autonomy for their strategic state in the north, political analysts said here today.

Indian police, backed up by paramilitary forces swooped on agitation leaders in the state yesterday and took into custody 305 people, Indian newspapers reported.

Though the government spokesman in the state capital, Chandigarh, put the arrest figure at 305, a Sikh leader told newsmen that over 1,000 people, including many middle-ranking leaders, had been arrested.

Yesterday's arrests were in addition to the 4,455 people detained so far in the state ruled by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress Party, since a of the Sikh political party -- Akali Dal -- renewed the agitation on August 4. [sentence as received]

The militant Sikhs have been demanding secession from the Indian union pleading they were being exploited by "Indians" and their rich state was being bled of its raw materials.

The agitation which had involved bloody clashes between the police and demonstrators and spasmodic violent incidents such as the latest attempt on the life of Mrs Gandhi's chief representative there, is now showing signs of gaining popular support, the analyst said.

"Earlier many of the Sikhs were not much interested in the agitation, but two recent hijackings of Indian airlines planes by the Sikh militants and the retaliatory actions by Mrs Gandhi have led them to believe they are important," the analyst said.

Yesterday's arrests included two Sikh journalists working for the party papers, Indian news agencies said.

Local journalists reached from here by telephone said the administration today asked the paramilitary forces to stand by in the event of a popular protest against the government's swoop.

A journalist who asked not to be identified said the Sikh leaders had put up loudspeakers on the top of "gurudwaras" (Sikh holy places) calling upon the people to fight back against the police.

"The atmosphere here is very tense, but the government seems well prepared for any retaliation", he said.

Federal intelligence reports earlier this month had warned Mrs Gandhi of the serious situation in Punjab, a highly placed official source said.

The report, according to the source, had spoken of armed preparations by the Sikhs inside the Sikh temples where entry by the police is traditionally barred.

There have been some cases of violent explosions inside the temples when explosives stocked there got ignited, the report said.

Meanwhile, Mrs Gandhi's representative in the state, Darbara Singh, told newsmen that his administration would counter any violent act with firmness.

"We cannot just allow things to go out of hand, we will tackle it firmly, but my government is ready to solve the right demands across the table", he said.

Yesterday's arrests had nothing to do with the assassination attempt against him on August 20 in a grenade attack which injured 30 people. The attack came on the same day that a Sikh militant hijacked an Indian airlines plane. He was later killed by commandos and the passengers were freed.

Talks held between the Sikh leaders and Mrs Gandhi to solve the issue have so far proved futile.

In what was seen as a desperate attempt to please the Sikhs, Mrs Gandhi heavily backed a Sikh, Zail Singh, for the presidential elections at the end of July. She often reiterated that the problems of the Sikhs would be looked into sympathetically.

But the agitation which started last year continued to attract the attention of average Sikhs in the state.

MANEKA GANDHI SEEN AS THREAT TO RAJIV GANDHI

BK290555 Hong Kong AFP in English 0054 GMT 29 Aug 82

[By Dilip Gansuly]

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 29 (AFP) -- Banking on the traditional Indian sympathy for a helpless widow with an orphan child, Maneka Gandhi, the rebel daughter-in-law of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi seems all set for a big leap into public life that may well alter the course of Indian politics.

The 26-year-old former model, who married the man who seemed likely to succeed the prime minister -- her son Sanjay -- is determined now to enter politics and challenge the authority of her 65-year-old mother-in-law.

She announced earlier this week her decision to form a political party to fight the ruling congress. "We already have enrolled 85,000 members and my party will formally hit the headlines on October 15", she said.

She also claims to have the allegiance of two deputies, one of whom, Kalpanath Sonkar from Uttar Pradesh, has come out publicly for her and claimed yesterday in Delhi that Congress party volunteers had tried to kill him.

Mr Sonkar joined the Congress Party in 1977 and said he was very close to Sanjay Gandhi, the late younger son of Mrs Gandhi and Maneka's former husband.

"I never wanted to get involved into politics, but the events since my husband's death in June 1980 have forced me to take the decision.... I have to fight the evils and save many of Sanjay followers", Maneka has said.

Sanjay Gandhi was the younger son of the Indian prime minister but heir apparent until his death in a plane crash in June 1980. [sentence as received] The following year Maneka left the prime minister's official residence and told a press conference she had been evicted. Slowly but steadily, she built her image.

The SURYA magazine she edited during the Janata government and later sold to one of Mrs Gandhi's political opponents, ran a cover story early this month claiming that there was a plot to kill her. This aroused nationwide interest and Maneka was flooded with letters extending support and urging her to form a political party.

"The entire thing might be a frame up just to give her the required publicity, but it worked very well", an insider in Gandhi's family said.

Political opinion is divided on Maneka's future in the country's politics.

"Her clash is not in fact with Mrs Gandhi, but it is between Sanjay's widow and 38-year-old Rajiv Gandhi, the only surviving son of Mrs Gandhi who was catapulted into the politics with the obvious aim of keeping the dynastic rule", a political analyst said.

"No one in India today can question the authority of Indira Gandhi and Maneka knows it... but even with the Congress Party secure in over 2,300 of the country's 3,200 assembly seats in 22 states and with a majority of over 350 in the lower house of Parliament, the party is a sick giant", he said.

"Without Mrs Gandhi, the party will crumble like the proverbial house of cards", he said. Another analyst concurred: "Rajiv is... a stranger to the dust and dirt of ground level politics where Sanjay won his spurs and Maneka had the first lesson of politics.... Without Mrs Gandhi to support him, Rajiv will prove no match of Maneka."

"Mrs Gandhi has effectively countered many of her political opponents, so Maneka will have to fight with her back to the wall hoping that something dramatic will happen", he said.

Those close to Maneka, however, say that she knows her limitations and the influence of her mother-in-law and would not for the time being attempt to combat her openly.

Still, the analyst added, Maneka knows "each and everyone in the Congress Party whp matters today" -- she was the wife of the most powerful man in the late 70's.

"The very fact that Mrs Gandhi reacts to whatever Maneka does, is evidence enough that she is already something worth taking note of", he said.

"What course the present conflict takes depends largely on Sanjay's former supporters, who form about 20 to 30 percent of the legislature today.... Many of them feel neglected by Rajiv and Mrs Gandhi," the analyst said.

He added however, that they would wait before choosing which woman to support.

IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES WITH MESSAGE

BK301630 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Aug 82

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Iraq Hamid 'Alwan arrived in New Delhi this evening. He is a special envoy of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Speaking to newsmen at the airport he said he will deliver a message from Husayn to Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi. Iraq, he said, regards the future and unity of the Non-aligned Movement as uppermost.

Asked about the proposed ministerial-level meeting in Baghdad, 'Alwan said this is one of the points which will come for discussion when he meets Mrs Gandhi tomorrow. He said Cuba as chairman of the movement and Iraq had worked out what he described an accepted formula for the meetings of the movement.

Calls on Gandhi

BK310855 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 31 Aug 82

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs of Iraq, Hamid 'Alwan, called on Prime Minister Gandhi in New Delhi today. 'Alwan, who arrived last evening as a special envoy of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, delivered a special message from Husayn to Mrs Gandhi.

JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH GANDHI

BK301639 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Aug 82

[Text] The prime minister has reaffirmed that India's policy of nonalignment has always been to judge the issues on merit. At a meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshio Sakurauchi in New Delhi today, Mrs Gandhi said we envisage our role in the Nonalignment Movement as one of partnership with all our colleagues. During the talks the question of disarmament also came up. The prime minister reiterated India's deep interest in achieving disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament.

A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said that the Japanese foreign minister informed Mrs Gandhi that Japan has deep interest and understanding of India's policy of nonalignment. Sakurauchi expressed the hope that the discussions which have been intensified recently between India and Japan will further enhance cooperation between the two countries.

SPOKESMAN COMMENTS ON 'POSTPONED' FRENCH VISIT

BK301621 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Aug 82

[Text] An AFP report from Paris quoting French Government sources says that the scheduled visit of a French delegation to India this week to discuss the supply of enriched uranium to the Tarapur plant has been postponed. A spokesman of the French Ministry of External Relations refused to elaborate except to say that the talks would be continued.

Meanwhile, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi that the French delegation will visit India, but a specific date of it or composition of the delegation are not yet finalized. He said the specific date of arrival of the delegation was never formally announced and hence there can be no question of a postponement. Asked whether France had put forward new conditions for supply of fuel for Tarapur, the spokesman said: As far as we are concerned France has not disavowed what Foreign Minister Cheysson had stated in a press conference in New Delhi recently.

PAKISTANI TRADE ADVISER BEGINS VISIT 27 AUG

BK280720 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Aug 82

[Text] The adviser to the Pakistan president on trade, Sheikh Ishrat 'Ali, has arrived in New Delhi on a 9-day visit to India. He was received at the airport by union Agriculture Minister Rao Birendra Singh.

Holds Talks

BK310639 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 Aug 82

[Text] Adviser for business coordination and internal trade Sheikh Ishrat 'Ali, now on a tour of India, called on Indian Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao, Minister of Commerce Shivraj Patil, and Minister of Agriculture and Civil Supplies Rao Birendra Singh in New Delhi yesterday. He discussed with the Indian ministers matters of common interest to India and Pakistan.

11 YEARS OF INDIAN-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP HAILED

BK291403 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1340 GMT 29 Aug 82

[Commentary by Loveleen of All-India Radio]

[Text] August is regarded as an auspicious month in India from ancient times. This is the month when the monsoon clouds from the yonder oceans bring lifegiving showers to the sun-parched earth after the scorching heat of the long summer months.

The whole of the animate world from man and beast to plants rises in celebration of the renewal of life. A romantic mood sets in. The event has been celebrated down through the ages in India's folklore, poetry and paintings and festivities attached with it.

The month of August has an added significance for modern India for it was on the 15th of this month, 36 years ago, that India achieved its independence from foreign yoke. As a happy coincidence, the country is also celebrating this month successful completion of 11 years of the fruitful treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation between India and the Soviet Union.

There is overwhelming reason for celebrating the event. The Soviet Union has been in the vanguard of those who stood by us at crucial junctures when the country's newly won freedom was threatened by predators. India in its own way has been reciprocating this friendship. The importance the two countries attached to this bond of friendship can be gauged from the fact that Soviet Vice President S.N. Imashev himself made it a point to be present at the month-long celebration of the historic Indo-Soviet treaty which has been growing from strength to strength with each passing year.

Despite geographical distances and differing ideological perceptions there are many more things India and the Soviet Union share in common. We share common aspirations for world peace, economic justice and a new social order. Though our roles in the international forums may differ at times on various issues because of our peculiar geopolitical situation but these differences are of certain nuances and not that of degrees. We both share a common objective for ultimate non-violence, non-involvement and elimination of all wars whatever their name.

Over the years, this friendship has manifested itself into more material terms of economic and industrial cooperation between the two countries. It is no secret that the Soviet Union was the foremost among the industrialized countries to come to our aid at a time when the capitalist world denied help to India to lay the foundations of its industrial infrastructure. They set up the first steel mill at Bhilai and other key industries and turn-key projects. Ever since, the Soviet Union has been helping India in achieving economic independence by imparting knowledge about sophisticated science and technology. Of late, this cooperation has found roots in more sophisticated fields of space research as well. India and the Soviet Union have in principle agreed to enter space in a joint venture to be launched from the Soviet Union by 1984.

Besides extensive cooperation in various fields, the Soviet Union is India's largest trade partner. Fruitful cooperation between the two countries also extends to the field of culture. Besides the frequent exchange of films and cultural troupes there are mind-boggling similarities in the etymology of Russian and Sanskrit words -- Dravidian and Slavonic. Indian classics like Ramayana and Mahabharata have been translated into Russian. Bhagwat Geeta has also been translated. Works of famous Russian authors have been translated into many Indian languages. Indo-Soviet collaboration in research in ancient links between the two countries is expected to be covered in greater depth.

Friendship becomes a pillar of strength in the wake of the world situation today when humanity stands face to face with the crises of its values, tension and rivalries, political gains, economic exploitations and the threat of impending atomic holocaust. India and the Soviet Union stand by each other for the cause of peace but not against any one. As India's Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi said recently: Our relationship is characterized by mutual understanding and sympathy.

May Indo-Soviet friendship continue to flourish. Friendship is the greatest tribute to humanity signifying understanding and concern for all. Let the generations to come find many more instances of friendship not only in our two countries but in all the countries of the world.

YAQUB KHAN RETURNS FROM NIAMEY CONFERENCE

BK290555 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Aug 82

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan returned to Karachi last night after attending the Islamic foreign ministers conference in the Niger capital, Niamey. The conference concluded last week.

Comments on Talks

BK300705 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 Aug 82

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Khan has said that the decision of the Islamic foreign ministers conference to institutionalize military support for the Palestinians is a step toward the realization of the objective of collective security for the Islamic nation. Talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport on his return home last night from the Niamey conference, he said this result reflected the determination of the Islamic nation to further strengthen its security.

He said the conference gave its total approval to Pakistan's appeal for concrete measures to ensure the collective security of the Islamic nation. He said Pakistan's full and unflinching support for the Arab cause was highly appreciated by the conference. The conference expressed its total solidarity with the Palestinian people.

The foreign minister said he apprised the conference of Pakistan's indignation and outrage over the recent Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the ruthless massacre of the Palestinian and Lebanese people.

Referring to the Afghanistan problem the foreign minister said the conference unanimously adopted a Pakistan-sponsored resolution expressing deep concern over the continued presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan and has once again called for the withdrawal of Soviet troops and the restoration of the nonaligned and Islamic status of Afghanistan. The resolution welcomed UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's efforts to bring about a political settlement of this issue. He said before this resolution was adopted he briefed the conference's ministerial committee on the indirect talks in Geneva last June. He was a participant in those talks.

The conference endorsed Pakistan's candidacy for the Security Council seat in the election which is to be held during the next session of the UN General Assembly toward the end of this year.

The conference also urged Iran and Iraq to stop fighting and to withdraw their forces to recognized international borders.

JAPAN'S SAKURAUCHI BEGINS 3-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT

BK301530 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Aug 82

[Text] Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshio Sakurauchi arrived in Islamabad this afternoon on a 3-day official visit to Pakistan. Talking to newsmen on arrival, he expressed the hope that strong ties of friendship between Japan and Pakistan will be further strengthened during his visit. He said in recent years cooperation has greatly increased between the two countries, especially in the economic field.

Sakurauchi said during his visit he will hold talks with Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan on the regional and international situation and bilateral relations and will also call on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq. He said he expects that his talks with Pakistan's leaders will be useful and constructive.

The Japanese foreign minister said that he is aware that in addition to bearing the burden of taking care of more than 2.7 million Afghan refugees, Pakistan is faced with a threat to its security due to the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan. He said that despite all these difficulties Pakistan is standing firmly on its own feet. The Japanese foreign minister said that the Government of Japan greatly respects the people and Government of Pakistan and has a great understanding with them.

YAQUB KHAN, SAKURAUCHI DINNER SPEECHES CITED

BK310637 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 Aug 82

[Text] Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshio Sakurauchi and Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan are to hold wide-ranging talks on international, regional and bilateral issues today. The talks are expected to cover the Afghanistan problem, Israeli aggression in Lebanon, other regional issues and bilateral cooperation in the political and economic fields. According to diplomatic observers, both countries hold identical views on a number of issues and today's talks will further help promote mutual understanding and cooperation.

Speaking at a dinner hosted in Islamabad last night in honor of the Japanese foreign minister, Pakistan's foreign minister and his Japanese counterpart spoke of the close relations between the two countries and said that both the countries hold identical views on a number of international issues.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that Pakistan, like Japan, is also desirous of promoting good will and cooperation among all nations of the world and renounces war and the use of force as a means to settle international problems.

Referring to Pakistan's offer of a no-war pact with India, the foreign minister said such a treaty would promote confidence between the two countries and generate a tension-free atmosphere conducive to further development of cooperation and establishment of good-neighborly relations between Pakistan and India. It will also help in promotion of peace and stability in the region.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that respect for the principle of nonintervention is indispensable to freedom and independence of all nations. It is a matter of deep concern for Pakistan that this principle has been violated in Afghanistan, which has caused the valiant people of the neighboring country to face untold hardships. He appreciated Japan's generous relief assistance for the Afghan refugees in Pakistan. He said Pakistan is convinced that peace in Afghanistan and security and stability of the region required withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan and restoration of its independence and sovereignty.

He said for the same reasons Pakistan supports the principle of nonintervention in Kampuchea.

Referring to Israel's barbarous invasion of Lebanon and atrocities on Palestinians in Beirut, he said that establishment of lasting peace in the Middle East required a comprehensive settlement, including the recognition of the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people.

Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshio Sakurauchi lauded the key role being played by Pakistan under the leadership of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq for unity and development of the Islamic Conference Organization and for ending the Iran-Iraq conflict. The Japanese foreign minister also appreciated the president's efforts in respect of world peace.

He said Pakistan is making all efforts on humanitarian grounds to look after the over 2.7 million Afghan refugees who have been forced to seek shelter in Pakistan in the wake of Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. At the same time, Pakistan is also making efforts to safeguard its independence and territorial integrity, facing serious threats, and to maintain peace and stability in the region.

Furthermore, he added that Pakistan is holding negotiations for improving relations with India, which is essential for peace and stability in South Asia.

Yoshio Sakurauchi expressed the belief that Pakistan's efforts will help in establishing peace not only in South Asia but in the world at large.

The distinguished guest also referred to the longstanding close relations between the two countries and said that Japan extends all support and assistance to Pakistan with this spirit of friendship.

KHUNJERAB PASS FORMALLY OPENED FOR TRAFFIC

BK271651 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Aug 82

[Text] The final border post in Pakistani territory on the Karakoram highway, Khunjerab pass, was formally opened for general traffic in a colorful and impresisve ceremony today. Federal Communications Minister Mohyuddin Baluch and Chinese delegation leader Ismail Amat jointly inaugurated the pass. Mohyuddin Baluch said on the occasion that the inauguration of the pass reflects the desire of the people of Pakistan and China to have the fullest development of cooperation for the benefit of the people of the two countries. He said that the Karakoram highway not only established a road link between the two countries, but it also strengthened the friendly ties. The highway testifies to the lasting and strong friendship between the two countries. He highly commended the engineers, planners and workers of the project and said that any tributes bestowed upon them would be insufficient because the efforts of these people made it possible to inaugurate the pass today.

Chinese delegation leader Ismail Amat said on the occasion that the opening of the pass was the common desire of the governments and people of the two countries. He said that this is yet another major event in the history of friendship between China and Pakistan. He said that there has been a speedy rise in the border trade between the two countries and cooperation in cultural, economic, scientific and technical fields has increased. He said that the movement of traffic on the highway will increase trade and economic prosperity and raise the standard of living of the people of the two regions.

Later, the Pakistani delegation and the Chinese delegation arrived at Kaxgar, the capital [as heard] of Xinjiang. The federal communications minister gave a dinner in honor of the Chinese delgation at Gilgit last night.

PRC REJECTS INDIAN PROTEST ON KHUNJERAB PASS

BK281153 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 28 Aug 82

[Text] China has rejected an Indian protest over the opening of the Khunjerab pass, the last post of the Karakoram highway on the Pakistan side. A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Beijing today China and Pakistan have built the highway linking the two countries and have opened the pass from their border to conduct border trade. These are normal affairs between the two neighboring countries and do not involve the question of ownership of Kashmir. He further said as for the dispute of Kashmir, it is a question between India and Pakistan and the Chinese position on this issue is consistent and known to all.

PAKISTANI EDITORS DEMAND LIFTING OF CENSORSHIP

BK291249 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Aug 82

[Text] The Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors has called upon the country's military regime to lift all forms of censorship. The Standing Committee of the council, in a unanimous resolution, also asked the government to withdraw its press and publications ordinance.

SRI LANKA

PARLIAMENT APPROVES CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

BK271124 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 27 Aug 82

[Excerpts] The second reading of the third amendment of the Constitution was passed in Parliament with a majority of 138 votes yesterday -- 139 voted for the bill and the lone Communist Party member Sarath Muttetuwegama voted against.

Prime Minister R. Premadasa, who wound up the debate, said that the Constitution of our country should be changed from time to time to suit the needs of our people. Even in other parts of the world, he said, this is being done. By doing so, Premadasa said the independence of the judiciary and the freedom of the common man will be protected.

The people of this country, Premadasa said, will get an opportunity to elect the head of state at the presidential election. Every vote, he pointed out, will have its value.

Under the earlier Constitution, the prime minister said, the president was chosen by the prime minister. Such a system, which deprived the people of their inalienable rights, is against the democratic process.

The prime minister added that it will be difficult to change the Constitution without the consent of the people.

JAYEWARDENE ANNOUNCES HE WILL SEEK SECOND TERM

BK271026 Hong Kong AFP in English 1022 GMT 27 Aug 82

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 27 (AFP) -- Sri Lankan President Jayewardene today formally announced that he was seeking a second term in office, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported from Colombo.

The proclamation came in the wake of legislation passed by the island republic's Parliament yesterday to enable the present presidential incumbent to go to the polls immediately without waiting for completion of his term in office in 1984.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD 20 OCTOBER

BK301355 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 30 Aug 82

[Text] The commission of election has fixed 20 October this year as the date for Sri Lanka's first presidential election. Nominations will be received on 17 September at the town hall, Colombo, between 0800 and 1100. Objections to such nominations will be entertained between 0800 and 1130 on the same day.

President Jayewardene last Friday issued a proclamation declaring his intention of seeking a mandate from the people to hold office by election for a further term. The president's proclamation followed the approval last Thursday by the Parliament of the third amendment to the Constituion, which permits the president to seek reelection after the expiry of 4 years of his 6-year term. President Jayewardene was formally nominated as a candidate to the United National Party at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the party at the weekend. A special resolution was adopted for the purpose.

KHAMENE'I WARNS AGAINST DISTURBING GULF SECURITY

LD301120 Tehran IRNA in English 0942 GMT 30 Aug 82

[Text] Mashhad, Aug 30 (IRNA) -- President Khamene'i Sunday warned those who intended to disturb peace and security in the region and stressed that if the enemy attempted to create insecurity in the Persian Gulf region to cause a loss to the Islamic Republic, Iranian combatant forces could preserve peace in this region. He added that this could be achieved through a just respect for all the countries of the Persian Gulf region and also the states which did not intend to violate others' territories. "If others intend to disturb peace in the region, we are authorised to give them too a good lesson," the president noted.

Speaking to a gathering of people here, President Khamene'i said that international supporters of Iraq and the criminal U.S. should know that Iran would not remain silent towards the U.S.-backed attacks and the Iranians could not remain indifferent towards any aggression against their independence, dignity, and territorial integrity.

He announced that if the Iraqi regime did not stop its offensives, Iran would preserve for itself the right to advance to whatever point it deemed necessary inside Iraqi territory. He stressed that Iran had never sought war and at present it was defending itself, adding that Iran's entry into Iraqi territory and continuation of the imposed war was to defend the great Islamic revolution. The two factors of Islam and vigilance of the people proved the futility of the enemy's calculations i.e. the war could bring Iran down to its knees. The enemy, he added, dreamed of the Islamic Republic's defeat in economic fields but later it found out that it was a firm and stable system.

Referring to the Zionist aggression against Lebanon, President Khamene'i remarked that the U.S., being scared of the Islamic revolution, was imposing pressure on Palestinian and Lebanese combatants in order to resolve the Palestinian issue for a while and again refer to the Islamic revolution which was more important.

As soon as Islamic combatants of Iran overthrew the lackey regime of Iraq, they would proceed towards Al-Quds (Jerusalem) and even at present they would not hesitate rendering any help to the Palestinian forces, the president stated.

He urged the heads of the Arab Islamic countries not to remain silent towards the Zionist aggression since the "Lebanon event" was just begun and called on them not to stand Phalangists' domination over Lebanon and have a serious confrontation with it not to let the U.S. to create a new Zionist state out of Lebanon.

Calling on the people to become further prepared in all fields to fight with the U.S., President Khamene'i said that all the peoples, especially the world oppressed, had set Muslim Iranians as an example. Therefore, he added, Iranian people should make themselves ready for the leadership of all truth-seeking strata.

President Khamene'i reiterated that although the direct criminal of the war was the Iraq regime, hands of the U.S. and its lackeys could be seen involved in the Iraqi imposed war. Also, he remarked, these hands could be seen in internal problems such as conspiracies of splinter groups and sowing discord among the people. He said that if the war did not exist, endeavours were being made to renovate the ruins left by the monarchical regime.

Commenting on the fight against the U.S., the president said that this struggle would continue with the greatest power and the most brutal ruling systems, until the materialisation of Islamic principles.

Friday prayers leaders and students of Mashhad theological school met with the president Sunday night. President Khamene'i outlined the mission of theological centres and the role the religious scholars played in achieving the goals of the Islamic revolution.

Further Details

GF300915 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 30 Aug 82

[Text] Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of our country, who traveled to Mashhad for a pilgrimage to the holy and purified mosque of Imam Reza, on his first day of residence in the city attended an exciting get-together with Muslim and revolutionary citizens of Mashhad and talked about different issues. These issues including Iraq's war against Iran and the scattering of the Palestinian fighters.

The president at first praised the two shining martyrs of Islam, Raja'i and Bahonar, and then pointed out the flood which is combating right with wrong, saying as soon as Islam was reinstated in Iran the enemies started their fight against it in the same way they did against the prophets. Mr Khamene'i, as well as alerting people to being ready to fight against the murderer America, said revolutionary patience is the first condition of any victory and we know that fighting against America and its agents all over the world is a big job, but we believe that this struggle will lead to a free, sovereign and complete life.

The president of the country, who is also the president of the Supreme Defense Council, pointed out the victories of the Islamic fighters against a larger enemy force and the news of victory in Khorramshahr [word indistinct] Islamic movements in the region while stressing the fear which the big devil and the reactionary governments of the zone have of these victories. He said the enemy started this war with the belief that this war would break our system but two factors, Islam and the overwhelming response of our people, have shattered the enemy's calculations. The enemy has not been able to achieve its devilish goals.

The president, after stressing the security of the Persian Gulf, pointed out the quietness of the conservative governments against the excesses of the Zionist and Ba'thist Iraqi regimes against the Islamic Republic and the laments of some countries fearing Saddam's regime. He said: I announce today that Iran is not interfering in the internal affairs of Iraq but hopes to ensure stability in the zone and if the Baghdad regime does not stop its inhumane attacks we reserve the right to push as far as we need to inside Iraq. He continued by saying that the umbrella of Iran's fighting forces are maintaining the security of the Persian Gulf.

Mr Khamene'i concluded by saying that leaders of Islamic and Arab countries will not remain silent as the savage U.S.-aided Zionist attack on Lebanon continues. The United States will not be allowed to transform Lebanon into another Israel. He stressed that [we] will firmly struggle against the United States by using all political and economic means available to us.

MUSAVI-ARDABILI ON REASONS FOR CONTINUING WAR

LD302328 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 30 Aug 82

[Excerpt] According to the Central News Unit, on the second day of the countrywide seminar of revolution guards commanders, in connection with the war imposed by Iraq on Iran, Mr Musavi-Ardabili, head of the state Supreme Court said: It is asked today: What are you doing in Iraq? The logic of our answer is that we are fighting oppression and the oppresser; those who do not understand this logic scorn us. But we shall carry on. Our imam said: Saddam must go. We are standing behind the leader and saying: Saddam must go.

GROUND FORCES COMMANDER, MUSAVI DISCUSS WAR

LD301814 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Aug 82

[Text] According to IRNA, Colonel Sayyad Shirazi, the commander of the ground forces, met and conferred with Mr Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister, at noon today. At the end of this meeting, commenting on the issues reviewed and discussed with the prime minister, Colonel Sayyad Shirazi said: During this session, the prime minister was briefed on the latest reports from the war zones and his excellency issued some instructions on this matter and also about the government's assistance to the battlefronts.

Commenting on future operations of combatants of Islam, Colonel Sayyad Shirazi said: These days we concentrate our thoughts and tactics mostly for the guarantee of the final victory; and with the succor of God it is hoped that in the continuation of this war, which is a struggle against blasphemy, we shall witness the final victory in our future move [harakat].

He added: If appearances show some stagnation, in reality there is dynamism and enthusiasm under the surface; and because we are fighting for God, we understand that one way of being able to continue [the war] is to be patient. We must all have patience.

PREPARATIONS FOR 'FINAL VICTORY' UNDERWAY

GF301849 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 30 Aug 82

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 30 (IRNA) -- The commander of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic Army, Colonel Sayyad Shirazi, said here today that preparations were being undertaken in relation to achieving final victory in the Iraqi imposed war. The commander, interviewed by an IRNA correspondent after a meeting with Prime Minister Musavi this morning, said: "It is hoped with the help of God...with our next move, we will achieve the final victory".

Commenting further on the present status of the 23 month old Iraqi imposed war, Colonel Shirazi alluded to the "calm before storm".

Colonel Shirazi, commenting on the Lebanese crisis and the position of the Islamic Republic Armed Forces towards this issue, said that the initiative taken by the Iranian forces (dispatched Iranian volunteer forces to fight alongside the Palestinian fighters) would not be affected by the new developments in Lebanon. He added that measures would be taken for liberation of the holy Al-Quds after attaining victory in the imposed war.

AFP CITES GHARAZI REMARKS ON FRENCH ARMS, KHARK

NC301759 Paris AFP in English 1902 GMT 28 Aug 82

[Text] Tehran, Aug 28 (AFP) -- Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi accused France of supplying Iraq with sophisticated arms used in the attack on the Iranian oil terminal of Khark, in a press conference here today.

This was the first time an Iranian top official had publicly acknowledged the aerial attacks on the oil terminal, while refusing to give any precise information on the extent of the damage.

"I cannot say the damage was heavy, as the enemy would be content, nor can I say the damage was slight as they would resume the attack", Mr Gharazi said.

The Iranian oil minister said France put her sophisticated arms at Iraq's disposal because "she knew that if Saddam Husayn's [words indistinct] was defeated, all her (France's) investments in Iraq would be confiscated" by Iran.

Mr Gharazi did not exclude the possibility that Iran's exports were leaving through other routes, and refused to reveal the level of Iran's oil exports and prices "for security reasons".

He also refused to confirm fears that Iran would block the Strait of Hormuz, used by international shipping for access to the Gulf.

Report Rebutted

LD301228 Tehran IRNA in English 0938 GMT 30 Aug 82

["Oil Ministry Repudiates AFP fabrications -- IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Aug 30 (IRNA) -- The Iranian Oil Ministry today categorically denied a French news agency report on the Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi's Aug. 28th press conference pertaining to the Khark Island and stressed that it was completely baseless.

The Oil Ministry announcement said that tapes of Mr. Gharazi's statements indicated the truth, attesting to the futility of the AFP allegations.

In addition to Iranian reporters, some 20 foreign journalists were present at the interview, added the announcement, but only the French agency concocted falsities portraying them to be said by Mr. Gharazi.

While reminding strong ties between Iraq and France, the Oil Ministry called on the Ershad-e Eslami (Islamic Guidance) Ministry to pursue the matter if it had not been carried out to further serve the Iraqi rulers.

IRANIAN DIPLOMATS INSPECT AHVAZ WAR ZONE

GF301638 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 30 Aug 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit in Ahvaz, the ambassadors and charges d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran in European and American countries, accompanied by Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations, arrived in Ahvaz before noon today to inspect the fronts of the war of right against wrong. They were welcomed by members of the governor general's office, clergymen and military commanders.

This group inspected most of the bullet-riddled sites and areas of Ahvaz shelled by the Ba'thist-Zionist regime of Iraq and later left for the front to meet the combatants of Islam and to see the war zones.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,032

LD301722 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Aug 82

[Communique No 1,032 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. On the anniversary of the martyrdom of two friends of the imam of the nation -- the martyr Raja'i and the martyr Bahonar -- remembering their self-sacrifices for the glorification of the word "right", we ask Almighty God to honor all the martyrs of Islam.

A summary of the battle operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the past 24 hours is as follows:

Yesterday an exchange of artillery and other heavy-weapon fire continued between our combatants and the aggressive Saddamite warmongers on most of the western operational sectors. While destroying a number of enemy positions and emplacements and disrupting their activities, the forces of Islam silenced Iraqi artillery fire.

According to reports received, at 1800 on 26 August, a group of pious and committed combatants of Islam in the Piranshahr sector attacked an Iraqi unit inside enemy territory, killing several Iraqi soldiers and capturing some of them. Our combatants also captured all of the equipment of this unit.

Yesterday sporadic exchange of fire continued in the southern operational sector. Our heroic combatants on all the fronts defended their defensive positions, returned enemy fire and destroyed a part of the positions and emplacements of the Saddamite forces.

Yesterday as a result of long-range enemy fire, a number of residential areas in Abadan caught fire and three of our compatriots were wounded.

During exchanges of fire on the Abadan fronts, our combative forces brought enemy positions on the other side of the Arvand Rud under fire, destroying seven trenches and foxholes and killing or injuring several of the Saddamites.

During the past 24 hours, a number of Iraqi planes flew over operational sectors and border towns in the south and west of the country, but were forced to flee by antiaircraft fire.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

IRAQI OFFENSIVE REPULSED IN MEYMAK HEIGHTS

LD301738 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Aug 82

[Text] According to Iran, the feeble and defeated enemy launched a last-ditch offensive at 2200 the night before last night in order to capture one of the Meymak heights. Before launching the offensive, the enemy pounded our positions with preparatory fire. But, with the strong resistance of the forces of Islam, the enemy offensive was repulsed and they suffered heavy losses.

IRAQIS VIOLATE ABADAN, KHORRAMSHAHR AIRSPACE

LD302218 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Aug 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit in Abadan, the aggressive aircraft of the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist regime violated Abadan airspace at 1410 yesterday. They also violated Khorramshahr airspace at 0200, 0230 and 0400 this morning. Each time, however, they were forced to flee by the vigilant air defense units stationed in the region before they could carry out any operations.

During the above period, the steadfast city of Abadan came under intense long-range artillery fire from the defeated forces of the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist regime. As a result, 23 of our compatriots were wounded and six were martyred. Several houses and a public library were also set ablaze and destroyed.

The brave combatants of Islam opened fire on enemy positions on the other side of the Arvand Rud and, while silencing the enemy fire, prevented any troop and supply movements in this region. Our forces also destroyed several slit trenches and foxholes and several observation posts of the mercenary enemy, killing several of the mercenaries.

BUSHEHR RADIO ANNOUNCES RED ALERT 31 AUGUST

GF310538 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 0532 GMT 31 Aug 82

[Text] This is Bushehr, Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Dear listeners: Your attention, please. The siren you are about to hear indicates that an air raid is imminent. [sound of siren]

IRNA REPORTS ANTIREGIME ACTIVITIES IN IRAQ

LD302340 Tehran IRNA in English 1935 GMT 30 Aug 82

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 30, IRNA -- In a clash between the so-called Saddam's people's soldiers and anti-Saddam troops in Qadisiyah garrison last week, 62 Iraqi Ba'thists were killed, wounded or captured. A captain, Gadam Hamdi, is among the captives.

The Iraqi Muslim mujahidin also attacked Sayyid Sadiq garrison, killed or wounded 6 Iraqi Ba'thist soldiers and inflicted considerable damages on the garrison on Aug 26.

In the escalating wave of opposition against the Iraqi Government by the people, the inhabitants of As-Sulaymaniyah, Sayyid Sadiq and Shanehdari, northeastern Iraq in demonstrations against Saddam, expressed their hatred of the pro-Zionist regime of Iraq.

The Iraqi Muslim mujahidin also killed two Iraqi security authorities and captured one of the heads of Iraqi Ba'thists, Salah Muhyi ad-Din, in the last few days.

BIMONTHLY WARNS OF U.S. ACTIVITIES IN BAHRAIN

GF291917 Tehran ASH-SHAHID in Arabic 11 Aug 82 p 14

[From the "Here and There" column: "The 13th U.S. Army in Bahrain"]

[Text] The infidel Al Khalifah regime has committed a new crime that is unprecedented in the region. U.S. experts wearing the uniforms of the U.S. sports academy have arrived in Bahrain. Information published by the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain indicate that they are experts from the U.S. 13th Army. They plan to gather children from juvenile prisons, beggars and school delinquents and give them special training to form a team of torturers that will participate in the future oppression for which the regime is preparing.

The U.S. 13th Army is that group of soldiers that is charged with inhumane tasks and killings by the ugliest methods such as torture, the use of lethal weapons or bombs and gases that are banned by international law. Men of this army are selected at a young age from juvenile prisons and homes for illegitimate children and are trained to carry out dirty missions when they grow up.

The Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain has warned the infidel regime not to commit this dirty crime. The front also appealed to citizens to guard against their children falling unwittingly into this trap. The front also appealed to Muslims and to the conscience of all people everywhere to intervene to end the crimes of the Al Khalifah regime in Bahrain.

PAPER CITES BAHRAIN TIES WITH S. AFRICA, ISRAEL

GF292104 Tehran ASH-SHAHID in Arabic 11 Aug 82 p 15

[From the "Here and There" column: "Israel Passed From Here"]

[Text] The public relations director of the Bahrain Petroleum Company [BAPCO] has responded to a complaint by one of the company's employees in AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ on the continued plundering of the company by Britons; the unjustifiably high salaries and double increments they are paid; the privileges they receive, which the ordinary citizen cannot get; and the system of employing the wives of foreign employees while scores of male and female citizens are left unemployed. It is strange that the senior official denied all these facts except for one: He did not deny the presence of six experts from South Africa, Israel's ally. He justified this by saying that they are on temporary loan.

Facts prove the Al Khalifah regime's cooperation with Israel through intermediaries who unintentionally reveal themselves every now and then. When we previously affirmed that the Interior Ministry and the security organ seek the assistance of Israeli expertise in torturing the steadfast detainees, we did not necessarily mean that colonist Begin came to Bahrain. However, this [assistance] is evident through the passports of Americans and Britons who visit Bahrain via Tel Aviv.

It has been recently revealed that criminal (Barwez Thabeti), the first assistant to General (Nuseiri), commander of the shah's police, SAVAK, visited Bahrain last January for a month. It should be noted that (Thabeti) fled to Israel before the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran.

Now we ask: Will the GCC study such issues? Is it the GCC countries that sign open cooperation agreements with South Africa on Israel's behalf?

'AZIZI, NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR DISCUSS RELATIONS

LD291156 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Aug 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, new Soviet Ambassador to Iran Vil Boldyrev met with Deputy Foreign Minister Ahmad 'Azizi this morning.

During the meeting Mr Boldyrev noted some of the common political positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the USSR and referred to the need for good neighborliness between the two neighboring countries with a long common border. He said he hopes his appointment as ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran will aid the expansion of bilateral relations.

In reply, the deputy foreign minister emphasized the need to preserve good-neighborly relations between the two neighboring countries and the need to expand relations on the basis of common interests.

OFFICIAL MEETS WITH PLO, SYRIAN AMBASSADORS

LD301758 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Aug 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Salah az-Zawawi, Palestinian ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran, met and conferred with the political under secretary of the Foreign Ministry at the ministry's premises this afternoon.

During this meeting, the sensitive situation in the Islamic world and the plots hatched by America and its allies to guarantee the recognition of the Zionist regime in the forthcoming Arab summit in Fes were discussed.

In connection with this plot, the Palestinian ambassador said during the meeting: The Arab summit in Morocco will be held only for the political destruction of the Palestinian issue, following the mass slaughter of the people of that land in Beirut. Rejecting the second Camp David plan, he said: Accepting this plan would mean nothing but recognition of the Zionist regime.

Confirming the Palestinian ambassador's remarks and declaring that the Muslim Islamic community and the Islamic Republic of Iran will never stop supporting the holy aims of Palestine, the Foreign Ministry political under secretary said: This conference is being held in Morocco to legitimize the Zionist aggressions.

Mr Ibrahim al-Yunis, ambassador of the brother country Syria to the Islamic Republic of Iran, also met and conferred with the Foreign Ministry political under secretary at that ministry yesterday.

During this meeting the sensitive situation in the Middle East and the invasion of Lebanon by the Zionist regime were discussed.

Declaring the intention of that country to fight against plots by America and the Zionist regime in the region, the Syrian ambassador said: The reactionary countries wish to extend the trend of Camp David by recognizing and signing peace agreements with that regime. He added: Syria would consider as its enemy any country that signs a peace agreement with the regime occupying Jerusalem.

Declaring Syria's steadfastness and resistance against these plots -- namely, the continuation of the occupation of Lebanon by the Zionist regime -- he said: So long as one Israeli soldier remains on Lebanese soil the Syrian forces will under no circumstances leave Lebanon.

During this meeting, the political under secretary of our country's Foreign Ministry condemned the aim of the Arab summit in Fes to encourage Arab countries to compromise and to approve compromising plans. Reciprocally, the Syrian ambassador declared his country's firm resolution to fight against plots and compromising plans.

Finally, reiterating support for the struggles of the brother country, Syria, the Foreign Ministry political under secretary said: We deem the defense of the holy aims of Palestine and the fight against America to be our duty. We are prepared to fight to martyrdom for this aim.

OFFICIAL MEETS WITH PDRY, SAUDI ENVOYS

LD302322 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 30 Aug 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the PDRY ambassador yesterday met with Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam, political under secretary of the Foreign Ministry. During this meeting they discussed the Zionists' aggression against Lebanon and the Palestinians and the role of the reactionary Arab states in this connection. The PDRY ambassador said: The progressive Arab governments and nations, while continuing the struggle against Zionists, will oppose any deviant move in this connection.

In connection with the murmur about convening the Arab summit Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam asked with surprise about the time and agenda of this summit and said: The question is why was this summit not held at the time when Lebanon was attacked and its innocent people killed? Why was the summit not held at that time to defend the people of Lebanon? It is surprising that we witness talk from some Arab reactionary countries for the purpose of bringing onto the agenda some compromising schemes in connection with Israel and recognition of Bashir al-Jumayyil and the American wing in Lebanon.

Also yesterday the Saudi charge d'affaires met Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam and had talks about solving problems that pilgrims might face and preparation of the necessities for their comfort.

During this meeting the Saudi charge d'affaires said that his government is very eager to see that a suitable atmosphere exists for better organization of the hajj rituals.

Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam said during this meeting: This year, the same as last year, we are determined to ensure that our pilgrims will perform their duties with extreme care and discipline; we are trying to do our best for the realization of unity among Muslims and we shall carry out our shari'a duties.

KHO'INI: HAJJ OF POLITICAL IMPORTANCE

LD272122 Tehran IRNA in English 1928 GMT 27 Aug 82

[Text] Tehran, Aug 27, IRNA -- Majlis Speaker and temporary Friday prayers leader of Tehran Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here today that the outlawed Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) had switched from the strategy of assassinating key figures, to one involving the assassination of the Hezbollahi (supporters of the Party of God), and other people who formed the country's military forces.

He said that by their barbarous act of assassination of innocent revolutionaries in the country, the underground organisation had become the subject of much hatred among the masses.

Rafsanjani, who was talking to thousands of Tehranis minutes before the mid-day Friday mass prayers held at Tehran University compounds here today, said that as long as the people support their government, terrorism will not be capable of attaining any of its objectives here.

Rafsanjani said that despite the nation's massive contempt against the outlawed organization, its masterminds still naively believe that the MKO still appeals to the people. He said the underground organisation had generated a feeling of animosity among its supporters against all people who are responsible for maintaining law and order. This exploitation, he said, propels its supporters to commit these acts of terrorism.

Referring elsewhere in his sermon to local issues, he reminded the businessmen, shop keepers and importers that they should ensure a fair distribution of consumer items, thereby preventing instances of hoarding or profiteering.

Preceding the hojjat ol-Eslam was Imam Khomeyni's representative and organizer of this year's pilgrimage of Iranian Muslims to the holy Mecca. Hojjat ol-Eslam Kho'ini, addressing the audience, said that hajj (pilgrimage to the holy Mecca) was the only ceremony in which Muslims themselves participated in contradistinction against other social or political gatherings in which a group of people normally assume to be representatives of the people of a country.

He ridiculed certain dogmatic misconceptions about the pilgrimage to the holy Mecca, some of which it has been said that hajj is a solely religious ceremony.

He also reminded the gathering that God Almighty had decreed that Muslims should gather around the Ka'bah during the hajj ceremonies so that they could discuss their mutual problems.

He also said political issues should be brought up and discussed by Muslims during the hajj ceremonies since in them were involved the Muslims' interests and their benefits as mentioned in the holy Koran.

Therefore, he concluded that the hajj ceremony was to be regarded as being a politico-religious activity enjoined upon Muslims by divine order.

GUARDIANS TO RULE ON ISLAMIC-CIVIL LAW DISPUTES

LD291014 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Aug 82

[Supreme Judicial Council announcement addressed to judges throughout Iran -- date not given]

[Text] In His exalted name. Subsequent to the Supreme Judicial Council circular issued on 23 August 1982 in connection with the historic and important statement made by his eminence the imam, the esteemed judges throughout the country are hereby informed:

As stated in Clause 4 of the circular, the esteemed theologians on the Council of Guardians will determine whether contradictions exist between [civil] laws and religious laws. All such questions must be referred to the Council of Guardians.

In case where judges recognize that [civil] laws contravene Islam, but do not know the Islamic ruling, they should telephone either 312700 or 312061, the numbers allocated for this purpose by the supervisor of the Supreme Judicial Council. They can thus learn their Islamic duty and discharge it accordingly.

THEOLOGIANS TO SUPERVISE LAND DISTRIBUTION

LD301314 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Aug 82

[Excerpt] The Central News Unit reports that in accordance with a decree issued by His Excellency Ayatollah Montazeri, and with the permission of the imam of the nation, Hojjat ol-Eslam Fazel Harandi has been assigned to appoint a number of knowledgeable and committed theologians to supervise the work of the delegations in charge of land distribution. This is to ensure that land is distributed in accordance with religious law to those farmers eligible to receive it pending final approval of the law governing the distribution of confiscated land and reclaimable virgin land by the Islamic Majlis.

KHAMENE'I DISCUSSES ISLAMIC COURT SYSTEM

GF301354 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 30 Aug 82

[Text] Friday imams, congregational imams, clergymen, religious teachers and students at the religious seminary in Mashhad met with Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president of the republic last evening. According to a Central News Unit report, the president, during this meeting said that Islamic schools and teachers, mullahs and clerical students must work to achieve the goals of the Islamic revolution.

The Islamic judiciary is a system of jurisprudence and the responsibilities of the Islamic schools, teachers, mullahs and the clerical students are very great in this system. He rejected the idea that only the clerical class had responsibility in upholding and working for the Islamic system. He said that all the people, and this includes the clerical class, are responsible under the Constitution for working for this system.

Mr Khamene'i, while stressing that one of the responsibilities of the clerical class is the necessity of guiding the people, said that those in the clergy should bear in mind the goals of the Islamic Republic and work to improve and strengthen the Islamic system since this system is closely tied to the Government of the Islamic Republic.

The president then reemphasized the recent remarks of the imam regarding the judicial system in which, according to the imam, the clerical class was mainly responsible for upgrading the system. Mr Khamene'i further said that the Islamic judicial system and jurisprudence had not yet been fully developed. Our approach, he said, should be like that of a bricklayer who meticulously lays one brick on another and spreads mortar between to build the desired structure. He said in this judicial system the judge should not only be just but should also be compassionate and be able to distinguish right from wrong.

NVOI CALLS FOR RETURN OF AFGHAN REFUGEES

TA272023 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 27 Aug 82

[Unattributed commentary: "Separate Your Policy From the Policy of Regimes Such as That of the Saudis"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: On the eve of the work of the Islamic Conference Organization, imperialist and reactionary circles and their mass media once again used the Afghan problem as a pretext to involve a number of the leaders of the Afghan murderous fugitive bands in this conference as the representatives of the Afghan people. Their aim was to implement America's Satanic plans in connection with diverting public opinion in Islamic countries from the joint antihuman crimes of Israel and the United States in Lebanon.

Today, the true nature of these so-called representatives of the Afghan people, who in fact are the mercenaries of the United States and who commit their crimes in Afghanistan under the guise of Islam and in the name of mujahidin similar to the Israeli aggressors against the Lebanese and Palestinian people, is no longer concealed. The world's people, including our homeland's people, are aware that the reins of all the leaders of the Afghan counterrevolutionary fugitive groups are in the hands of the United States. It is world-devouring America that directs and leads these so-called mujahidin in all their criminal activities against the Afghan people. It is America that has grouped these professional killers in Afghanistan, is training and arming them and then dispatching them to Afghanistan in order to drag the people of that country in dust and blood. However life has foiled all the plans of the United States, its associates and mercenaries to halt the movement of history in Afghanistan.

The Afghan people, under the leadership of their democratic government, have overcome all the difficulties resulting from the undeclared war by the United States and the reaction of the region, and everyday they are gaining further success in building a new and free society. Despite all the efforts of imperialism and the reaction of the region, and contrary to the idle talk of imperialist mass media, the situation in Afghanistan has been stabilized further and the popularity of the democratic government among the people has increased. The Afghan people are preoccupied with creative work and the building of a new life, and expect all their compatriots who at one time left their country for various reasons to return to their homeland.

In connection with this issue Mr Babrak Karmal, the leader of Afghanistan, during a speech on Kabul radio, by addressing all Afghans who under the influence of false propaganda and intimations by imperialism and the fugitive Afghan feudalists and capitalists had emigrated from the country, called upon them to return to their homeland and to participate in building a new society. In his radio speech Mr Babrak Karmal revealed the sinister and Satanic intentions of the leaders of the Afghan counterrevolutionary bands. Addressing the Afghan immigrants to achieve their self-interested aims, and who strive with the aid of refugees to regain control of absolute power, cultivated lands and properties. In the name of the democratic Government of Afghanistan, Mr Babrak Karmal officially announced that the government has provided all the necessary working conditions for townspeople to return to the homeland, and will guarantee them an assured and calm life.

As we are aware, during recent months a large number of deceived and fugitive Afghans have become aware of the facts and have returned to their homeland through various ways. A considerable number, too, despite the terrorism of murdering bands, have declared their readiness to return to their liberated homeland, Afghanistan. A large number of these deceived Afghans are residing in our country. Currently many of them are approaching our Islamic Republic's officials and requesting that the necessary facilities be provided for their return to their homeland. Unfortunately, certain individuals in our homeland who are infatuated by superficiality, mental prejudice and intimations are obstructing the fulfillment of this wish of the deceived Afghans.

Our homeland's people who feel the consequence of the plots, assassinations, robberies, and smuggling of the leaders of the Afghan counterrevolutionary bands -- these so-called Islamic mujahidin -- over their whole being, want these Afghan counterrevolutionary and American gangs to be expelled from our revolutionary homeland, and the necessary conditions to be provided for the considerable number of decieved Afghan refugees to return to their homeland.

Human and Islamic justice dictate that the government adopt a realistic attitude towards Afghanistan, and that in this particular issue it separate its policy from the policy of the United States, China, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and other reactionary regimes.